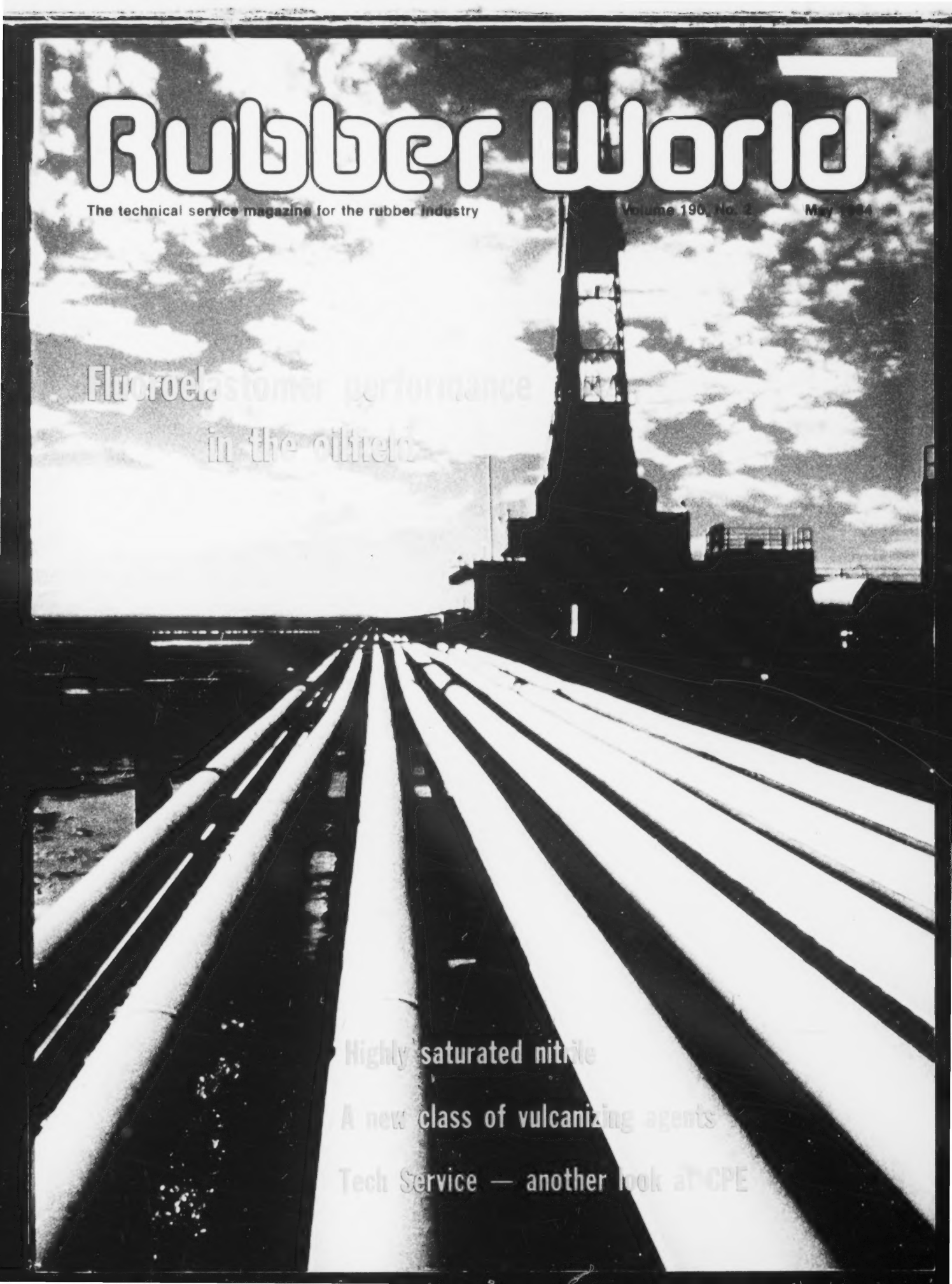

Rubber World

The technical service magazine for the rubber industry

Volume 190, No. 2 May 1984

Fluoroelastomer performance in the oilfield

Highly saturated nitrile

A new class of vulcanizing agents

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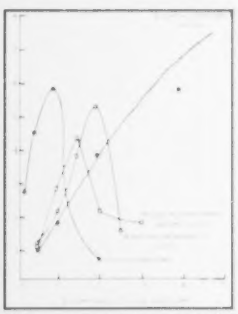

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Cover

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A Lippincott & Peto Publication/ Volume 190. No. 2/May 1984

USA carbon black industry data (metric tons)			
		1983 Year	Percentage Change Year 83 vs. Year 82
N-100 (SAF)	Prod.	21,443	+27.0%
	Ship.	21,888	+29.6%
N-200 (ISAF)	Prod.	126,976	+16.1%
	Ship.	129,600	+16.3%
N-300 (HAF)	Prod.	486,419	+ 6.6%
	Ship.	496,411	+ 7.7%
N-500 (FEF)	Prod.	93,979	(6.2%)
	Ship.	96,679	(5.4%)
N-600 (GPF)	Prod.	286,941	+ 8.5%
	Ship.	293,711	+12.7%
N-700 (SRF)	Prod.	116,505	+20.1%
	Ship.	122,570	+25.9%
Total	Prod.	1,132,263	+ 8.4%
	Ship.	1,160,859	+10.6%
Domestic Shipments (Included Above)		1,140,129	+11.5%

SBR black rubber production (metric tons)		
	Year	Year 83 vs. Year 82
Net polymer	125,347	(7.4%)
Oil	48,011	(12.8%)
Oil % of net polymer	38.3%	
Net rubber	173,358	(9.0%)
Net rubber % of dry SBR	21.5%	
Carbon black	83,815	(1.1%)
Total SBR black rubber	257,173	(6.5%)

for the year was $4.3 million on sales of $63.4 million.

Rubbermaid Inc. had earnings of $10 million for the first quarter on sales of $126.7 million.

Standard Products Co. reported third quarter net income was $6 million with sales of $84.6 million.

Uniroyal reported first quarter earnings were $17.1 million on sales of $540 million.

Markets, news

Production of furnace black in 1983 increased 8% and shipments were up 11% from 1982 levels. Production reached 1,132 thousand metric tons and shipments were at 1,161 thousand metric tons according to Columbian Chemicals. Demand in all grades was up except N-500 which was down to the lowest level in 27 years. Plant inventory for the year diminished to the lowest since 1965 to 68 mmt, a three week supply, ranging from two and a half weeks in N-300, N-500 and N-600 to four weeks in N-200 and N-700. N-100 inventory is at a 5½ week supply.

Dry rubber consumption in the U.S. increased 5% over 1982 to 2,387 thousand metric tons, the strongest in four years, with demand in EPDM, polybutadiene and natural rubber also the highest in four years. Nitrile rubber consumption of 50 mmt was 13% higher than 1982 but was the second lowest level in eight years. Both rubber ratios were higher than 1982: the synthetic share, from 72.7% to 73.3% and carbon black, from 44.9 to 47.8 parts per hundred rubber.

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission is attempting to block two proposed acquisitions in the carbon black industry. The FTC says Bass Brothers purchase of Ashland Chemical's carbon black division and Consolidated Mining & Industries' attempt to purchase Continental Carbon should substantially reduce competition in the industry. Bass Brothers own Sid Richardson Co. and Consolidated is the parent firm of Columbian Enterprises.

The International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers has forecast the demand for synthetic rubber will be rising 3.3% per year or about 0.5% greater than natural rubber. The worldwide use of synthetic vs. natural as a percent of total rubber consumed is predicted to increase slightly to 67.1% by 1988. The centrally planned economy countries should experience a growth rate somewhat higher compared to the non-CPEC regions.

SBR will continue to be the top rubber consumed accounting for more than 30% of total new rubber consumption. This year the IISRP estimated consumption of SBR carboxylated latex for the first time. This product represents approximately 11% of total synthetic.

IISRP new rubber consumption forecast Worldwide forecast by region (excluding CPEC) (1000 metric tons)			
Synthetic rubber	**1983**	**1984**	**1988**
North America	1,962	2,047	2,215
W. Europe, Africa, M. East	1,506	1,532	1,634
Asia and Oceania	1,087	1,104	1,242
Latin America	439	457	540
TOTAL	4,994	5,140	5,631
Natural rubber			
North America	752	778	832
W. Europe, Africa, M. East	986	997	1,037
Asia and Oceania	1,208	1,223	1,408
Latin America	163	171	198
TOTAL	3,110	3,169	3,469
Total rubber			
North America	2,714	2,825	3,047
W. Europe, Africa, M. East	2,492	2,529	2,671
Asia and Oceania	2,295	2,327	2,644
Latin America	603	628	738
World (Excluding CPEC)	8,104	8,309	9,100

IISRP total new rubber consumption forecast Worldwide (excluding centrally planned economy countries) (thousand metric tons)				
	1982	**1983**	**1984**	**1988**
SBR-solid	2,266	2,355	2,414	2,618
SBR-latex*	278	293	303	335
Polybutadiene	813	855	884	978
Ethylene/propylene	308	343	360	416
Polychloroprene	231	241	247	259
Nitrile-solid & latex	162	167	177	196
Other synthetics**	757	740	754	828
Total synthetics	4,815	4,994	5,139	5,630
Natural rubber	2,980	3,110	3,169	3,469
Total new rubber	7,795	8,104	8,308	9,099
Synthetic percent	61.8	61.6	61.9	61.9
Carboxylated SBR latex	580	636	658	705

*Excluding carboxylated latex
**Includes butyl and polyisoprene rubbers